

Needham HRC Minutes – April 25, 2013

Present: Marlene Schultz, Cynthia Ganung, Amelia Klein, Ashok Mehta, Mike Vaughn, John Schlittler

1. Minutes

- Minutes of March 21, 2013 HRC meeting approved.

2. Old Business

- Publicity for May 2 event: There was a nice story on page 2 of the Needham Hometown Weekly, but there was no mention at all of the event in the Needham Times. The event was also posted on the Needham Patch. Posters have been placed at various locations in town. Members were asked to take materials and distribute them elsewhere as possible,
- Committee Membership: Michael Centola has resigned from the Committee. If Nathan joins the Committee, we have 8 members of the 12 provided for in the original establishment of the Committee.
- Online Conflict of Interest Training: Everyone has completed the online training about the MA conflict of interest statutes, but one or two certificates may need to be delivered to Town Hall.
- Protocol for Complaints: Marlene will review procedures and protocol for formal complaints submitted to the HRC. Currently John Schlittler has provided feedback/information as a representative of the Needham Police Department.

3. Reports

- Needham HS Art Student Logo project: Amelia brought in a portfolio of prospective HRC logos that were submitted to the beginning art class of Ms Cara Studds at Needham HS. There were several interesting ideas, but most of the designs seemed too complex to be useful as a logo. It was suggested that we might invite students to add text to their logo to serve as a short introduction to the concept of human rights, but this must now be postponed until the Fall. Marlene added that there is a more universal human rights logo at the website www.humanrightslogo.com that might work as a basis to which we could add elements to identify it with our Committee.
- Immigration task force: The current focus is on support for a bill on rights for domestic workers, who are currently uncovered by legislation. There is a Framingham workers' center, and Medford is trying to organize a cooperative for domestic workers to deal with issues such as wage theft. [?] survey of laws and legislation relating to rights of domestic workers.
- Diversity Summit: Amelia provided an overview of preparations and plans for the October 2013 Needham Diversity Summit. The group is pursuing funding to provide a keynote speaker. The general format will be the same as for the October 2012 event.
- May 2 event. There will be a showing of the film "The Worst of the Worst" produced by the Yale Visual Law Project, co-produced by Needham HS graduate Aseem Mehta. This will be followed by a panel discussion moderated by former Needham HRC chair Jim Glickman and a general question and answer period.

3. New Business

- Future HRC Meeting Dates
May 16, 2013 and June 20, 2013

4. Other Business

- To reach the HRC web page from the town website <<http://www.needhamma.gov/>> the path is to click on the link “Boards, Commissions & Committees” on the pull down menu “Government” near the top of the page and then, on the menu at the left of that page, click on the link “Boards/Commissions/Committees: D-N” on the left of the page. This brings up a page with the link to “Human Rights Committee”. We are hoping to get a more direct link.
- The new email address for the committee is
 - Needham.HRC@gmail.com

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Recorder: Mike Vaughn